

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A fastening device for ~~a first component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion~~ comprising:

said [a] first component member, ~~being the lid for said open end portion of said second component member,~~ including a plurality ~~an even number~~ of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said ~~lid~~ first component member and each said thread having a predetermined lead angle; and

said [a] second component member having an open end portion, ~~said component member~~ including a plurality ~~an even number~~ of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member and each of said thread of said second component member having a predetermined lead,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member,

wherein when said first and second component members are moved closer from a first relative position to a second relative position, said threads of the first and second component members are engaged with each other, and after said threads of both of the component members engage, said threads are elastically deformed by each other by moving said threads at a distance, and said first and second component members are fixed in the second position while maintaining their engaged relationship by the frictional engagement of the threads differing in said lead angle.

2-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1 [4], wherein each of said first and second component members includes an even number of threads, ~~and said threads having a different lead angle are provided alternately on one of said component members.~~

7. (currently amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1 [3], wherein when the threads on the inner wall of said ~~lid~~ first component member are engaged with the threads formed at the open end portion of said ~~cylindrical container~~ second component member, the inner ceiling surface of said first component member ~~lid~~ is brought into contact with the surface of said open end portion of said second component member ~~the container~~ defining the opening.

8-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member is from about 1° to about 2°.

12. (currently amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member is at least about 1°.

13. (currently amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member is less than about 2°.

14. (currently amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member is about 1.5°.

15-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method for fastening a first component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion, said first component member being a lid for said open end portion, said first component member including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said lid and each having a predetermined lead angle, and said second component member including an even number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member, the fastening method comprising the steps of:

moving said first and second component members to a first relative position where said threads of the component members are engaged with each other; and

moving said first and second component members from the first relative position to a second relative position so that said threads are elastically deformed as a result of their engagement with each other,

whereby said first and second component members are fastened to each other by the frictional engagement of said threads.

22. (new) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 6, wherein said different lead angle of said even threads of said second component member is alternately formed therein.

23. (new) A method for fastening a first component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion, said first component member being a lid for said open end portion, said first component member including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said lid and each having a predetermined lead angle, and said second component member including an even number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one but not all of the threads of said first component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said second component member, the fastening method comprising the steps of:

moving said first and second component members to a first relative position where said threads of the component members are engaged with each other; and

moving said first and second component members from the first relative position to a second relative position so that said threads are elastically deformed as a result of their engagement with each other,

whereby said first and second component members are fastened to each other by the frictional engagement of said threads.

24. (new) A fastening device comprising:

a first component member, including a plurality of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said first component member and each said thread having a predetermined lead angle; and

a second component member having an open end portion, said component member including a plurality of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member and each of said thread of said second component member having a predetermined lead,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member,

wherein when said first and second component members are moved closer from a first relative position to a second relative position, said threads of the first and second component members are engaged with each other, and after said threads of both of the component members engage, said threads are elastically deformed by each other by moving said threads at a distance, and said first and second component members are fixed in the second position while maintaining their engaged relationship by the frictional engagement of the threads differing in said lead angle.

25. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein each of said first and second component members includes an even number of threads.

26. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein when the threads on the inner wall of said first component member are engaged with the threads formed at the open end portion of said second component member, the inner ceiling surface of said first component member is brought into contact with the surface of said open end portion of said second component member defining the opening.

27. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said first component member is from about 1° to about 2° .

28. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said first component member is at least about 1° .

29. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said first component member is less than about 2° .

30. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the different lead angle of the at least one but not all of the threads of said first component member is about 1.5° .

31. (new) The fastening device according to claim 1 wherein there are at least two different lead angles on the threads of said first component member.

32. (new) The fastening device according to claim 24 wherein there are at least two different lead angles on the threads of said second component member.